United Nations S/2018/7*

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 2 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, during its presidency of the Security Council in January 2018, Kazakhstan plans to hold a debate on Friday, 19 January 2018, in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: building regional partnership in Afghanistan and Central Asia as a model to link security and development".

In this regard, Kazakhstan has prepared the attached concept note (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons on 12 January 2018.

18-00132* (E) 120118

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 2 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council debate on the subject "Building regional partnership in Afghanistan and Central Asia as a model for the security-development nexus", to be held on 19 January 2018

I. Background

1. Kazakhstan, for the first time representing Central Asia in the Security Council, looks forward to its stewardship of duties as the President of the Council in January 2018. We are striving to ensure long-term peace, security, development and prosperity in the region. Afghanistan therefore plays a special role in ensuring durable stability and security for the countries of Central Asia.

2. In this regard, our country proposes to hold a ministerial debate on the subject "Building regional partnership in Afghanistan and Central Asia as a model for the security-development nexus", in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security", on 19 January 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

3. The security situation in Afghanistan continues to be fragile and volatile, with an increase in the activities of well-known radical terrorist groups, including in the country's northern parts, which threaten the security of the region and beyond. Insecurity further hampers the growth of the Afghan economy.

4. All of the Central Asian States are committed to developing long-term cooperation with Afghanistan, since it is in their political and economic interest. It is our principal position that Afghanistan should be viewed not as a threat, but as an important and high-potential partner. It is therefore critical to integrate the economies of Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, including Central Asian States, through enhanced interaction and connectivity, inter alia, by implementing regional infrastructure, trade, investment, transit and transportation projects.

5. There are three important aspects of ensuring the success of Afghanistan, which, through further joint implementation, could be used as a template model applicable in other conflict zones around the world:

- Security and development are closely interrelated: without security there can be no development; and without development there is no security (this is the so-called security-development nexus)
- Security and development today have an aspect that is more regional than country-specific because many problems and the ways to solve them lie outside the framework of a single State and require a regional approach
- The shrinking volume of accessible international humanitarian and development assistance requires a coordinated and integrated regional strategy of United Nations structures, not competition among them. This approach should lead to a greater interaction and coordination of United Nations agencies and programmes, increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations, and ensuring greater transparency in the administration of aid, as well as the saving of resources.

6. Most important is a collective recommitment to a preventive approach in Afghanistan and the Central Asian region, as well as renewed comprehensive efforts to make conflict prevention central to work across the United Nations system.

7. Participants in the ministerial debate are therefore encouraged to announce specific commitments for achieving a war- and terrorism-free future for Afghanistan and Central Asia, including financial support from those with the capacity to provide it.

II. Practical goals

8. The event will be designed to:

- Stress the importance of coordinated actions and a regional approach of the world community in creating a zone of peace, cooperation and prosperity in Central Asia and Afghanistan, and welcome the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use the effective tool of preventive diplomacy in this regard
- Express serious concern at the presence of ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida affiliates and other illegal armed groups in Afghanistan, posing serious threats to the security of Afghanistan and the countries of the region, including Central Asia
- Call upon all States to strengthen their international and regional security cooperation to enhance information-sharing, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice so as to better counter the threat posed by these groups, including returning foreign terrorist fighters
- Further recognize that a conflict- and violence-free Afghanistan is critical for regional and global peace and security
- Encourage increased cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and relevant United Nations agencies and regional organizations in order to strengthen the region's capacity to overcome challenges to peace, stability and sustainable development, including in the areas of counter-terrorism, cross-border organized crime, combating illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, illegal migration, and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes
- Underscore the inextricable linkages between security and development projects in Central Asia and Afghanistan which will contribute to the strengthening of preventive measures for the security of the region
- Emphasize the commitment of all Central Asian States to developing long-term cooperation with Afghanistan, since it is in the political and economic interest of the countries of the region
- Recognize the efforts of the Central Asian States in implementing projects to facilitate regional connectivity, trade, transit and infrastructure in support of peace and prosperity for the people of Afghanistan and Central Asia
- Encourage further intensification of regional integration, including cooperation between the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan in the field of *infrastructure projects, inter alia, in the areas of energy, transport, transit and* interregional trade, as well as intensification of people-to-people contacts

III. Briefers and participants

9. The presidency will be represented by Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

10. The Secretary-General will brief participants.

11. Subsequently, speeches will be made by Mr. Abdrakhmanov and members of the Security Council.

12. Statements will then be made by the ministers for foreign affairs of Afghanistan and the countries of Central Asia, as well as interested States Members of the United Nations and observer organizations.

13. Security Council members will be invited to participate at the highest possible level.

14. The ministerial-level debate will be followed by the monthly working luncheon of the Secretary-General with Security Council members.

IV. Outcome document

15. On the occasion of this debate, it is expected that a presidential statement will be adopted calling for a constructive and innovative regional partnership in Afghanistan and Central Asia. The outcome document will be circulated to all Member States and stakeholders, and made available at the Security Council presidency website.

18-00132